



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades and  
Dry Tortugas  
National Parks

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## Dry Tortugas National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
Rick Cook 305 242-7714

### FORT JEFFERSON STABILIZATION

Superintendent Maureen Finnerty announced the release of a scoping brochure and a request for public comments on a proposal to accelerate the stabilization of historic Fort Jefferson located within Dry Tortugas National Park. Comments will be used to develop options for stabilizing the fort and to shape the Environmental Assessment for this project. "The fort has deteriorated due to the harsh marine environment and needs to be stabilized and preserved," said Finnerty. "Intensive stabilization is needed to preserve this fort for the enjoyment of future generations, and we need to perform this work in an environmentally sound manner. We would like to invite the public to help us develop the best project possible."

A public workshop will be held to gather input on March 20, 2003 at the Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street, Key West, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend at any time during the informal workshop. The format will include a display on the project with park staff available to answer questions and take comments. No presentations are planned. The purpose of the workshop is to identify issues and concerns in order to define the alternatives and the scope of analysis for the environmental assessment. Fort Jefferson is located on Garden Key, 70 miles west of Key West. Construction of the fort began in 1846 and continued for thirty years. During the Civil War the fort remained in Union hands, and served as a prison for captured deserters.

The scoping brochure identifies three preliminary alternatives for this project, consisting of a no action option and two different options for intensive stabilization. The brochure lists issues and impact topics and provides a timeline for the environmental analysis process.

The National Park Service will accept comments through April 7, 2003, with a draft plan available in May. Copies of the scoping brochure are available on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/drto/planning>; by mail from Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, 40001 S.R. 9336, Homestead, FL 33034; or by calling 305-242-7700. Comments can be mailed to the park or emailed to [Elsa\\_Alvear@nps.gov](mailto:Elsa_Alvear@nps.gov).